

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 ICA-11 INR-10 NSAE-00 AID-05 AF-10
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AF/W:RHARTE
AF/S:JNACH
AF/E:GASCOTT
AF/W:BKIRKPATRICK
NEA/AFN:ALEGGIO
AF/C:WSWING
ARA/CCA:ADBOWEN
ARA/CAR:FTUMMINIA
ARA/AND/P:DKEMP
NEA/INS:JGRAHAM
EA/TIMBS:DSULLIVAN
NEA/ARN:DREUTHER
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN PRIORITY
USINT HAVANA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LOME PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 094649

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNESCO, PORG, SOPN

SUBJECT: MEETING OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATING COUNCIL
OF NON-ALIGNED NEWS AGENCIES POOL, HAVANA, APRIL 17-21

1. DEPT UNDERSTANDS THAT INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATING COUNCIL OF NON-ALIGNED NEWS AGENCIES POOL (ICC) WILL MEET IN HAVANA, APRIL 17-21 AND MAY DISCUSS RESPONSE--OR LACK OF IT--BY UNESCO AND ITS MEMBER STATES TO TUNISIAN RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY 19TH SESSION OF UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE (GC) NOVEMBER 1976 IN NAIROBI. RESOLUTION MANDATED UNESCO ASSISTANCE "IN SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH ARE SEEKING TO ESTABLISH AND STRENGTHEN THEIR OWN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS IN LINE WITH THEIR NEEDS." U.S. GAVE STRONG BACKING TO RESOLUTION, IN PART TO DEFLECT A LOOMING THREAT TO MOUNT AN ATTACK ON GLOBAL FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION. U.S. ALSO STATED PUBLICLY
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BELIEF THAT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SHOULD MAKE AVAILABLE TO LDCS ASSISTANCE IN STRENGTHENING THEIR COMMUNICATION FACILITIES.

2. ABILITY OF U.S. AND LIKE-MINDED STATES TO CONTAIN CONTINUING THREAT TO GLOBAL FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AT UPCOMING 20TH GC (PARIS, OCTOBER-NOVEMBER, 1978) MAY DEPEND IN LARGE MEASURE ON BEING ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE GOOD FAITH IN HELPING LDCS ALLEVIATE COMMUNICATION IMBALANCE. TO THAT END, SOME PROGRAM PROPOSALS ARE BEING DESIGNED OR DISCUSSED WITH THE EXPECTATION OF LAUNCHING THEM BEFORE THE 20TH GC CONVENES.

3. MEANWHILE, POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT SOME MEMBERS OF NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT MAY ATTEMPT TO QUESTION CREDIBILITY OF U.S. AND OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED DEMOCRACIES IN SUPPORT OF TUNISIAN RESOLUTION. DEPT IS CONFIDENT THIS PERSPECTIVE CAN BE SUCCESSFULLY COUNTERED OVER THE LONG HAUL, BUT IF THE THEME IS SEIZED UPON BY MILITANT THIRD-WORLDEERS, OUR TASK AT 20TH UNESCO GC WOULD BECOME MORE DIFFICULT. HAVANA NEWS AGENCY POOL MEETING AND FOLLOWING NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING MEETING AT KABUL MAY 6-10 PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR SUCH EXPLOITATION.

4. ACCORDING TO DEPT'S AVAILABLE INFORMATION, FOLLOWING ARE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF ICC AND PRESUMABLY INVITED TO HAVANA CONFERENCE: GHANA, MOZAMBIQUE, SOMALIA, TOGO, TUNISIA, ZAIRE, CUBA, GUYANA, PERU, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAQ, JORDAN, VIETNAM, YUGOSLAVIA, AND SRI LANKA

5. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, IF OBTAINABLE THROUGH NORMAL DIPLOMATIC AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS CONTACTS, WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO THE DEPT IN PLANNING FUTURE TACTICS:

--ARE THE COUNTRIES LISTED PARA 4 INDEED MEMBERS OF ICC AND INVITED TO HAVANA?

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--IF SO, WHAT IS THE NAME AND POSITION OF PROBABLE REPRESENTATIVE(S) FROM RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES?

--WHAT ARE THE KNOWN AGENDA ITEMS?

--WILL (OR DID) TUNISIAN RESOLUTION RESPONSE ARISE AT MEETING?

--IS THERE EVIDENCE ON THE PART OF RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES AND/OR REPRESENTATIVES OF A SELF-CONSCIOUS COMMITMENT TO THE "NEW WORLD ORDER FOR INFORMATION?" WHICH ARE THE LEADERS IN PRESSING THE COMMITMENT AND WHICH HAVE OPPOSED OR MODERATED IT.

6. DEPT ACKNOWLEDGES THAT IN SOME CASES, IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO ELICIT SUCH INFORMATION WITHOUT AROUSING AN UNDESIRABLE DEGREE OF CURIOSITY OR SUSPICION AND IN EACH CASE DEFERS TO THE JUDGMENT AND DISCRETION OF THE POST. IN ALL SUCH CONTACTS, IT SHOULD BE MADE PLAIN THAT U.S. RESPECTS INDEPENDENCE OF NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AND RECOGNIZES THE CONCERNS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ABOUT THE INFORMATION IMBALANCE. U.S. ALSO HAS DEEPLY HELD VIEWS ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND WELCOMES OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE PERSPECTIVES ON A COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION PROBLEM.

7. POSTS ARE ASKED TO ADDRESS REPLIES, INCLUDING SUMMARY OF CONFERENCE COVERAGE BY LOCAL MEDIA, TO SECSTATE FOR IO/UNESCO WITH INFO COPIES TO PARIS FOR U.S. PERMANENT DELEGATION TO UNESCO, USUN NEW YORK, ICA AND OTHER ADDRESSEE POSTS. CHRISTOPHER

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